

Materials detectives

Suggested: Years 1-3 | Pupil page

Observe and compare four classroom materials using evidence.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Choose four dry, teacher-approved classroom samples, such as paper, card, fabric and a wooden block. Observe without tasting, heating or mixing.

Name each sample and record what you can actually notice. Use words such as smooth, rough, stiff, flexible, soft or hard.

Sample 1: _____ **Material:** _____ **Properties I observed:**

Sample 2: _____ **Material:** _____ **Properties I observed:**

Sample 3: _____ **Material:** _____ **Properties I observed:**

Sample 4: _____ **Material:** _____ **Properties I observed:**

My comparison: which two samples are alike in one way? Give evidence.

Materials detectives | Teacher notes

Suggested: Years 1-3 | Teacher page

Purpose and use

Observe and compare four classroom materials using evidence.

Teaching notes

Model the difference between an object and its material. A desk can contain more than one material; name the sample carefully.

Use the same comparison for all four samples. Accept cannot tell when a property cannot be established by this observation.

Answers / suggested responses

Open-ended. Paper and card may differ in stiffness; fabric may be flexible. Judge the actual samples rather than expecting every example of a material to behave identically.

A useful conclusion names a property and an observation supporting it. This sheet does not test whether a material is waterproof or heat-resistant.

Print and adapt

Print page 1 for the activity and keep this teacher page. Use A4 paper at Actual size. Suggested ranges are starting points, not curriculum-alignment claims.

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